Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 180823

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN COMMENTS ON U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ANALYSIS PREPARED BY FBIS OF RECENT OFFICIAL NORTH KOREAN REACTION TO U.S. DRAFT UNGA RESOLUTION ON KOREA.

2. NORTH KOREA HAS CONVEYED IN A RATHER UNUSUAL AND LOW-KEYED MANNER ITS NEGATIVE REACTION TO A 27 JUNE U.S.-DRAFT UN RESOLUTION THAT PROPOSES DISBANDING THE PRESENT UN COMMAND IN SOUTH KOREA IF ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTINUING THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT CAN BE DEVISED. THE PYONGYANG MEDIA'S FIRST DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL CAME IN THE FORM OF REMARKS BY KOREAN WORKERS PARTY POLITICAL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE MEMBER KIM YONG-NAM ON 27 JULY, WHILE MEETING WITH JAPANESE NEWSMEN ACCOMPANYING A LIVERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY DELEGATION TO THE DPRK. KIM LABELED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AN ATTEMPT BY THE UNITED
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PAGE 02 STATE 180823

STATES TO KEEP ITS TROOPS IN THE ROK BY "CHANGING THE UN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

FORCES BERET FOR ANOTHER" AND SAID THE NORTH WOULD
"DETERMINEDLY OPPOSE" SUCH A MOVE.

3. KIM'S REMARKS WERE TRANSMITTED BY KCNA'S ENGLISH SERVICE AND THE PYONGYANG DOMESTIC RADIO ON 28 JULY. (IT IS

UNUSUAL, IF NOT UNPRECEDENTED, FOR DPRK MEDIA TO REPORT THE REMARKS TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS OF ANY NORTH KOREAN OFFICIAL OTHER THAN KIM IL-SONG HIMSELF.) THE NORTH KOREAN VERSIONS OF KIM'S REMARKS SEEMED DESIGNED TO STRESS THE UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF THE INTERVIEW, NOTING THAT KIM WAS ASKED FOR "HIS OPINION" ON VARIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE KOREAN VERSIONS REPORTING -HE MEETING IDENTIFIED KIM ONLY AS A "MEMBER" OF THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMISSION OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE AND A DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, WHEREAS JAPANESE PRESS ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED KIM AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION AND HEAD OF THE PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

4. EARLIER SIGNS PORTENDING A NEGATIVE DPRK RESPONSE TO THE U.S.-COSPONSORED RESOLUTION HAD APPEARED IN KIM IL-SONG'S REMARKS IN MID-JULY TO A JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) DELEGATION, REPORTED BY JAPANESE BUT NOT NORTH KOREAN MEDIA, AND IN A JSP-KWP JOINT STATEMENT CARRIED BY KCNA ON 18 JULY. THE JAPAN TIMES REPORTED ON THE 16TH THAT KIM HAD TOLD THE JSP GROUP THE RESOLUTION WAS A "CONSPIRACY AIMED AT PERPETUATING THE DIVISION OF THE PENINSULA." IN THE JOINT STATEMENT THE JSP SIDE TOOK A SIMILAR LINE, DENOUNCING THE RESOLUTION AS A "CRAFTY MOVE TO JUSTIFY OCCUPATION OF SOUTH KOREA BY U.S. TROOPS AND CREATE 'TWO KOREAS.'" KIM YONG-NAM'S MORE RECENT REMARKS DID NOT TIE THE DRAFT UN RESOLUTION TO ANY U.S.-INSPIRED "TWO KOREAS" SCHEME.

5. INCLUDED IN THE PYONGYANG RADIO VERSION, BUT OMITTED FROM KCNA, WAS KIM'S ASSERTION THAT WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS WAS THE "FIRST PREREQUISITE AND BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION." IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE KCNA ENGLISH VERSION OF DPRK STATEMENTS TO
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PAGE 03 STATE 180823

BE SOFTER IN TONE THAN THE VERSION PRESENTED TO THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE. ACCORDING TO A 27 JULY KYODO ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING, KIM CALLED FOR A U.S. TROOP PULLOUT AT THE SAME TIME THE UN COMMAND WAS DISBANDED, A DEMAND NOT INCLUDED IN EITHER KOREAN VERSION. INGERSOLL

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